



To: Representative Betsy Ritter, Chair, Public Health Committee
Senator Terry Gerratana, Chair, Public Health Committee
Representative Jason Perillo, Ranking Member, Public Health Committee
Senator Jason Welch, Ranking Member, Public Health Committee
& other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee

From: Anne Noble, President and CEO, Connecticut Lottery Corporation (CLC)
860-240-2816, anne.noble@ctlottery.org

Re: Support for HB 6392: AAC Birth-to-Three Services and Rehabilitation Services
for Chronic Gamblers

Date: March 2, 2011

The Connecticut Lottery Corporation is pleased to support HB 6392: An Act Concerning Birth-to-Three Services and Rehabilitation Services for Chronic Gamblers.

Sec. 3 of this bill will codify the amount the Connecticut Lottery Corporation contributes to DMHAS's Chronic Gamblers and Rehabilitation account at \$1.9 million going forward. Public Act 09-3 had temporarily increased the amount that the CT Lottery Corporation contributes to this program from \$1.5 million dollars to \$1.9 million dollars for FY'10 and FY'11 and the additional \$400,000 would sunset without this important legislation.

DMHAS's problem gambling unit provides exceptional prevention, treatment and rehabilitative services. They are our state experts in preventing and protecting vulnerable groups from harm related to gaming. We have found them to be an invaluable resource.

In 1999, the CT Lottery Corporation, DMHAS and the CT Council on Problem Gambling formed the Connecticut Partnership for Responsible Gambling to work on a variety of initiatives around both safe and responsible play for adults and deterring youth from gambling. This Partnership is an express recognition of the need to provide adequate prevention and treatment services while embracing gaming as an important economic engine in our state; in fact, we are currently collaborating on a project with a group of New Haven youth on our first web-based / viral commercial that will be made by kids for kids about the dangers and problems associated with youth gambling. We hope to launch this sometime in late March or early April.

Connecticut is a gaming state. Indeed, Connecticut is home to the fourth oldest state lottery, two of the world's largest casinos, and soon-to-be fifteen off-track betting facilities. The Lottery is a proud contributor to the gaming revenue that sustains good causes. Concurrently, **responsible gaming** is a core value of the Lottery and has become more than a philosophy as demonstrated in our policies to market games responsibly and through support for adequate funding of treatment and prevention.

While the vast majority of adults who gamble are able to do so safely and responsibly, it is imperative to the Lottery's mission of integrity and responsibility that Connecticut offer supportive services to those who develop problems. According to a 2009 state-sponsored report¹, 1.6% of Connecticut residents were identified as having a problem gambling sometime in the prior year. This statistic is a decrease from 2.8% in 1997. Prevention and treatment programs are a necessary corollary to gaming entertainment to ensure that the rate of problem gambling continues to decline. Accordingly, we wholeheartedly support programs that recognize and treat problem gamblers and the families and loved ones that are affected by problem gambling.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue and please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions.

¹ Spectrum Gaming Group. "Gambling in Connecticut: Analyzing the Social and Economic Impacts". Prepared for the State of Connecticut, June 24, 2009.